

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 011147Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5531
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2299

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IS, EG, JO, PFOR
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH MAYOR SHAWWA

REF: TEL AVIV 1956

1. DURING A VISIT TO GAZA MARCH 31 EMBOFF MET WITH MAYOR SHAWWA, WHO RESTATED HIS VIEWS ABOUT THE UNACCEPTABILITY OF A WEST BANK/GAZA STATE AS A FINAL SOLUTION TO THE ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM AND THE NECESSITY OF A U.S.-IMPOSED SETTLEMENT (REFTEL).

2. DESPITE THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL, THE MAYOR FELT THAT IF SADAT AND ASSAD CAME UP WITH A JOINT APPROACH TO THE NEGOTIATIONS PROCESS, THE PLO WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW IN TRAIN. SHAWWA CHARACTERIZED THE PNC'S RESOLVE TO STEP UP ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AS "JUST WORDS." ISRAELIS
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HAVE TIGHTENED UP THE SECURITY SITUATION TO THE EXTENT THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE PLO TO MAKE MUCH HEADWAY IN TERRORISM THERE. MOREOVER, ACCESS BY SEA FROM LEBANON WAS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT NOW THAN FORMERLY, AND KING HUSSEIN DID NOT SEEM INCLINED TO PERMIT SUCH ACTIVITIES FROM JORDAN.

3. WITHOUT MENTIONING FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY BY NAME, EMBOFF TOLD THE MAYOR THAT "AN EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL" HAD EXPRESSED TO EMBASSY CAIRO HIS UNAWARENESS OF ANY PLANS FOR THE MAYOR'S VISIT TO EGYPT. THE MAYOR STARTED MOMENTARILY (COMMENT: PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT HAD BEEN THROUGH THE MAYOR'S NEPHEW, GAZA CITY MANAGER ISAM SHAWWA, NOT WITH THE MAYOR HIMSELF), THEN REPEATED THE STORY OF HIS INVITATION FROM THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN AMMAN (TEL AVIV 1515, PARA 2). ASKED IF HE HAD HEARD FURTHER FROM THE AMBASSADOR, THE MAYOR SAID SIMPLY, "I AM WAITING TO HEAR FROM HIM SOON."

4. THE MAYOR WAS ALSO STILL WAITING TO HEAR FROM SHEIKH ZAYED OF THE U.A.E. ABOUT THE MAYOR'S POSSIBLE FUND-RAISING VISIT THERE. EMBOFF MENTIONED REPORTS OF WEST BANK DELEGATIONS VISITING THE GULF, WHICH THE MAYOR ACKNOWLEDGED. THE MAYOR THEN EXPLAINED THAT SHEIKH ZAYED HAD DELAYED THE VISIT ONCE DUE TO PRESSING BUSINESS ABROAD, AND ADDED (IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION) THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE EMIRATES WERE HOLDING BACK ON GAZA SUBSIDIES BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FROM THE PLO. ACCORDING TO THE MAYOR, PAST ATTEMPTS TO GET MONEY FROM THE ARAB COUNTRIES HAD ALWAYS BEEN MET WITH THE REFRAIN "WE WILL BE GLAD TO GIVE YOU ASSISTANCE, BUT, OF COURSE, IT MUST COME THROUGH THE PLO."

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5. ON LOCAL ISSUES, THE MAYOR COMMENTED ON THE RESIGNATION SEVERAL DAYS AGO OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF GAZA, WHO OSTENSIBLY RESIGNED BECAUSE OF DISSATISFACTION THAT THE COUNCIL HAD NOT CARRIED THROUGH WITH ITS THREAT TO LEAVE OFFICE BY MARCH 31. "ACTUALLY," SAID THE MAYOR, "THE DEPUTY HAD DONE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING IN 18 MONTHS OF SERVICE AND HIS RESIGNATION HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COUNCIL, UNANIMOUSLY AND WITH CONSIDERABLE RELIEF."

6. THE MAYOR HAS NO WORD WHETHER THE ISRAELIS HAVE APPROVED ANERA'S EFFORT TO UNDERWRITE A SEWAGE PROJECT IN GAZA. NOR HAS HE RECEIVED DEFINITE WORD FROM THEM ON HIS BUDGET REQUEST FOR EIGHTY-SIX MILLION ISRAELI POUNDS, ALTHOUGH GOVERNOR-GENERAL MAIMON HINTED THAT HALF THAT AMOUNT MIGHT BE APPROVED. (LAST YEAR, GAZA MUNICIPALITY RECEIVED THREE REPEAT THREE MILLION POUNDS FROM THE GOI, WHICH IS VIRTUALLY NOTHING FOR A CITY WITH A NARROW TAX BASE AND A

POPULATION OF MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND).

7. PRESSURES ON THE MAYOR FROM THE LOCAL POPULACE
OVER THE ASHKELON JAIL STRIKE HAVE ABATED BECAUSE
MOST INMATES HAVE ABANDONED THE STRIKE.

8. COMMENT: THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE OF MAYOR
SHAWWA'S CAIRO VISIT, APPARENTLY LIES WITH THE EGYPTIAN AM-
BASSADOR IN AMMAN.
DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

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